

3. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The present patent application was filed on August 5, 2004 with claims 1-35. In a Restriction Requirement dated January 5, 2007, the claims were restricted into three independent inventions by the Examiner. Appellant elected to prosecute claims 16-26 and 31-35 without traverse. Claims 1-15 and 27-30 were cancelled.

In the first non-final Office Action dated April 17, 2007, claims 16-26 and 31-35 were rejected. In a response filed June 28, 2007, claims 16, 18, and 31 were amended and claims 36-38 were added.

In a Final Office Action dated September 19, 2007, claims 16-26 and 31-38 were rejected. In a response filed November 16, 2007, no claims were amended, cancelled or added. An Advisory Action dated December 11, 2007, indicated that the request for reconsideration in the response to the Final Office Action did not place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 16-26 and 31-38 are under appeal.